

# ON FOCUS

**THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE JAMAICAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION**

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## CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

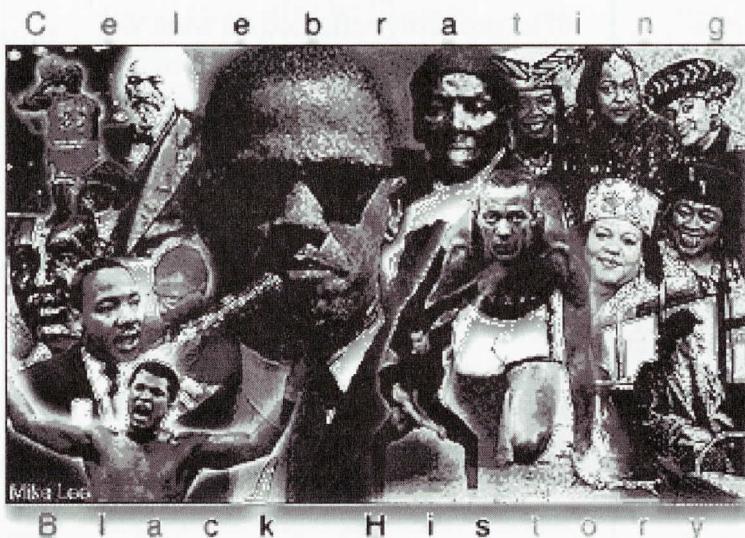
*Submitted by Milton Hart*

### Black History Month not Enough Time to Speak about a People's Achievements

In order to positively acknowledge the presence of a people, their accomplishments and contributions should be made known in academia, the media and in mainstream advertisements.

If Black history is as important as we deem it to be, then it should be taught in schools where children (not just the ones of African ancestry) can be educated on the positive contributions made by people of African ancestry. Black history is, for the most part, absent from the recognized history texts in academia.

The origins of Black History Month can be traced to 1926, when Harvard-educated Black historian Carter G. Woodson founded Negro History Week to celebrate the history, contributions and culture of African-Americans. Woodson chose



the second week in February for the new festival to link the celebrations to the birth dates of Black activist Frederick Douglass (February 7, 1817) and President Abraham Lincoln (February 12, 1809). Fifty years later, as part of the American bi-centennial celebrations in 1976, the week was expanded to become National Black History month.

Black History Month, according to the annals of history, was brought to the shores of Canada by the Canadian Negro Women's Association, in the 1960s. It is now officially recognized throughout

Canada following a unanimous adopted motion in the House of Commons by Jean Augustine (the first Black woman elected to the Canadian parliament).

Canadians should know that Elijah McCoy was born in Colchester, Ontario, Canada on May 2, 1844. The son of former slaves who had fled from

*Continued on page 9*

## QUARTERLY MEETING

**SUNDAY  
FEB. 27, 2005  
2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

Jamaican Canadian Centre  
995 Arrow Road

**For further information call**

**JCA at (416) 746-5772**

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# EDITORIAL

On December 26, 2004 as much of the world squirmed in discomfort having eaten way more than we needed to the previous day, the frightening scene of waves over four stories high enveloped large parts of Asia. To this date, it is one of the most horrific scenes ever witnessed by most people alive in the world today.

It is believed that most people did not take the event very seriously at the initial stage. Like most, some of us probably reflected on what we learned in Geography classes many moons ago and for the first time since the word Tsunami was mentioned in those classes and we recorded it just to get a pass in the exams, it was the first time that we even remotely heard the word again. Even so, what one learns in a Geography class and the reality of what occurred on December 26 cannot ever be compared.

As television screens worldwide played and replayed the horrific scenes, what had initially seemed like a fuzzy photograph, very quickly became a clear reality and we knew then, that life as the people of those hard hit areas knew it, will never be the same.

However, the human spirit once again proved that it cannot be denied and the survival stories from the regions have helped to cushion the blows and give rise to hope which seemed to have eluded many people in the early days. The deeds of multiplied good Samaritans flowed over the airwaves and gave comfort to us that despite the brutality that continues to run rampage over other

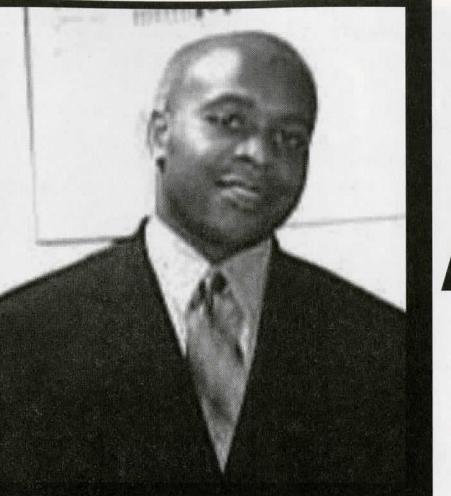
parts of the world, and even within some of the areas hit by the Tsunami, there were still many very good people in the world with hearts driven by compassion and genuine love.

As the people of Asia continue to rebuild from the horrible devastation, the rest of the world has gone deep into both their wallets and souls to support them and help restore them to their feet. This has been an honourable response on a worldwide level by all indications; this is the best response ever to a tragedy.

It is hoped that the other tragedies that continue to proliferate around the world in places like the Sudan and Haiti, will not be overlooked, but that the good Samaritans will remember to save those that are dying of yet another type of "natural" disaster. As women and children continue to be raped and mutilated in untold numbers, and their men and fathers murdered without thought, it is important that the world be vigilant about stopping this genocide. For sure the United Nations report says it is not genocide YET, so they continue to "monitor" the situation. One is forced to ask, if it were not genocide after so many killings, when does it become genocide and had it been happening in other places, would it have been genocide many years ago?

It is hoped that the same quick response and concern shown to the Tsunami victims will be shown towards to other victims suffering in other areas around the world. May many more "good Samaritans" come to the fore.

The world needs all Good Samaritans!



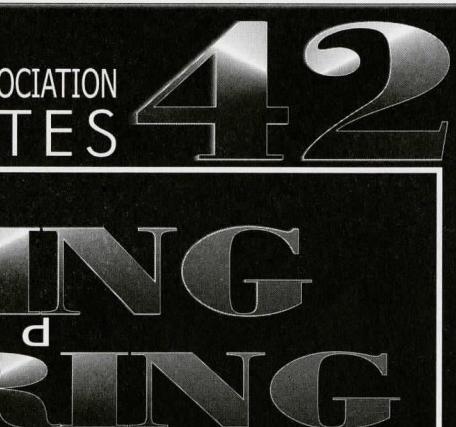
# President's REPORT

**David Griffiths**

take the opportunity to thank Hon. Jean Augustine for her resolve in getting the Parliament of Canada to acknowledge and declare February, Black History Month. The City of Toronto, often seen as a leader in issues must also be thanked for its support and celebration of Black History Month. In this year's first issue of "In Focus", it is a great opportunity to expose our culture as we reflect on the rich history of our forefathers.

The Board of Directors salutes the founders of this association and celebrates with our members Black History Month. We thank the members and the community for their role over the years in promoting and participating in the purposes of the JCA as well as Black History Month. Your continued support of the Boonoonooos Brunch speaks volumes.

The JCA would like to once again



During the renovation period, the mission statement that was adopted "Working Together, Growing Together" clearly supports our belief in the month. As we celebrate not only the month but our lives as part and part of human history we endeavour to do as Bob Marley encouraged us to do - "Emancipate yourself from mental slavery; None but ourselves can free our minds."

In our effort to do this we must educate and re-educate ourselves. Celebrating the month helps us as a people focus and despite the hurdles with which we are faced daily, we know that we will eventually sprint across the finish line with satisfaction knowing that with our focused determination, we can now say, "we have made it".

We need Black History Month today. Philosophers have long contended that there are two types of education that one can attain. "The one that is given to him, and the other which he gives himself". While the first is essential for a strong foundation, the latter is more personally rewarding. Our thoughts generate our actions. Most of what we are now or what we will become is dependent on our thoughts. In the words of a friend I met twelve years ago, Andrew Martin, "Your thoughts go out of your head like angels and create the possibilities you think about, so in all you are doing, think of victory and triumph". What we teach ourselves is of greater nourishment to the mind than what we are taught. We must therefore use this month as a challenge to ourselves, to achieve victory. As we celebrate, let us do so in LOVE. Afterall, February is also the month of love. A belated happy Valentine Day.

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## JAMAICAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION GOLF: 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL TOURNAMENT

### REPORT TO MEMBERSHIP



On Saturday, August 14, 2004, the Annual JCA Fundraising Golf Tournament took place at Cardinal Golf Club. Our esteemed patrons were Jamaican Consul General, Ms. Vivia Betton; M.P. York South Weston, Mr. Alan Tonks; Ontario Minister of Colleges, Training & Universities, Mrs. Mary Anne Chambers; and Toronto Star columnist, Mr. Royston James. The event attracted 148 golfers and raised \$12,600 for the association's Building Fund, bringing the total raised by the Golf Committee in five years to \$63,544.

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Jamaica, Appleton Jamaica Rum, Brant-Ville Construction Ltd., Grace Kennedy, Senvia, Southport Data Systems, Western Union; and our **Silver Sponsors**, Alta Nissan, CBM Group Ltd., Mirabel Travel, Molson Breweries, and RBC Financial Group. We do attract a few new sponsors each year. In 2004 they were Senvia, RBC Financial Group, and Laparkan Sea & Air Cargo, a Bronze Sponsor. A list of all our sponsors and donors is on the JCA Web site; we urge you to support the businesses mentioned there.

The golf course is very expensive (\$11,953 was paid this year for course usage fees, carts, and lunch); so we would make no money without sponsors and donors. We are extremely grateful to the 46 companies and individuals who contributed cash and/or prizes. Special mention must be made of our **Platinum Sponsors**, Flow 93.5 and Sandals; our **Gold Sponsors**, Air

At the tournament, the team's low-score players were Gary Smith, Lloyd Smith, Glen Martin, and Desmond Davis. The mixed team low score players were Ann Marie Viver, Danny Vassell, Bert Rhodd, and Errol Timol.

Thanks are also due to the able leadership of committee chair, Karl Killingbeck; to the caterer, Jean

McIntosh, who provided delicious Jamaican food at the post-game reception held at the JCA Centre; and to Richard Banton of CHRY, who was our MC and auctioneer.

The day would not have gone

*Continued on page 12*

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# Education and Cultural Committee

## Saturday Morning Tutorial Program

The 2004/2005 session of the Saturday Morning Tutorial Program got off to a wonderful start under the leadership of the new Program Coordinator, Chantal Garnett. All trends point towards an enhanced and more streamlined program.

Due to the limited number of volunteers, the class size was capped at a lower number than previous years and registration for 2004/2005 is currently closed. Unfortunately some of the volunteers from 2003/2004 were not able to return this time but we were fortunate to benefit from some new ones. As part of a major volunteer recruitment drive, a flyer soliciting volunteers was developed for circulation in colleges, universities and the wider community. The volunteers and members of the Education Committee will have regular meetings in an effort to evaluate the program to determine required enhancements. Another attempt will also be made to have a meeting with the parents to highlight their role and to discuss ways by which they can participate even more in the program.

The focus of the program continues to be on the enhancement of reading and writing skills along with activities related to cultural heritage. In addition to the onsite in-class activities there will also be field trips to various points of interest.

## JCA 2004 Scholarship and Awards Program

The 2004 Scholarship Awards presentation took place on November 20, at the JCA. This was a very successful event with approximately 250 attendees. The following were the recipients for the stated Scholarships:

1. Dr. Ezra Nesbeth Scholarship O'Shani Rerie
2. Mary Anne Chambers Scholarship Amaka Eneh
3. I Have a Dream Scholarship Camille Williams
4. Youth Affairs Committee Rising Star Scholarship Heather Kere
5. Erma Collins Scholarship Moiyan Johnson
6. Marcus Mosiah Garvey Scholarship Yanique Williams
7. Ryerson University Scholarship (2) Megan McKenzie & Lawrenicia Ntiri
8. Humber Institute of Technology and Higher Learning Scholarship Eddie Amegah
9. Eva Smith Bursary Christiana Ogbonnaya

The Scholarship Planning Committee in particular and the JCA in general are very grateful to the various scholarship donors, sponsors and all others who made the event a successful one. Without their combined support the

Scholarship Program to assist worthy students from the Caribbean/ African communities would not be a reality. Special mention must also be made of the 2004 Scholarship Planning Committee, which worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the function: Lloyd Porter, Norma Brown-Larro, Vincent Conville, Fay Conville, Ian Edwards, Chantal Garnett, Roseanne Henlon, Edeva Smith, Judith Spencer, Edward Smith, Kennedy Marshall, Basil Thomas, Pam Reynolds and Sylvanus Thompson. Planning for the 2005 Awards is already underway and the general membership of the JCA is being

asked to support the program in any possible way.

## External Partnership/Community Education and Outreach

The Education Committee will be embarking on various community outreach and education activities for implementation in early 2005. The Committee will be working with the Womens Committee to host a Community Health Fair to highlight issues that will be beneficial to the community being served. JCA members are also invited to make suggestions to the Education Committee on any relevant seminar/workshop that could be implemented during the year.

## Spelling Bee Canada

The JCA will be hosting the North York Division of the 2004/2005 Spelling Bee Canada Competition. This involvement will include providing a venue for the finals, providing space for coaching activities, co-ordinating various administrative functions and identifying suitable volunteers for positions such as Event Judge and Coach. Support, including any required training of volunteers, will be provided by Spelling Bee Canada. Registration is currently taking place at the JCA with the assistance of a staff volunteer. Persons interested in volunteering to be on the JCA Spelling Bee Committee are asked to contact Sylvanus Thompson.

Toronto District School Board Academic Records Proposal

Toronto District School Board's proposal to keep race-related records of academic performance was prepared by Dr. Vincent Conville for submission. The position paper outlined the reasons for opposing the District School Board's proposal. Dr. Conville was further requested at the last Quarterly meeting to establish a working committee to review the potential implications of this proposal.

## Membership

The Committee is still pursuing its efforts to increase its membership and any assistance from the general membership is most welcome.

Submitted by:

*Sylvanus Thompson*  
Chair, Education Committee

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# WOMEN'S SPACE

Taken From PRIDE News Magazine

## Dr. Yvette Bonny: First Doctor to Perform a Bone Marrow Transplant in Quebec

Dr. Yvette Bonny holds the distinction of being the first doctor male or female to have performed a bone marrow transplant in Quebec.

To mention that she was born in Haiti seems invalid, but it's a proud boast to be able to call her a Caribbean woman of note.

"I knew by age six that I wanted to become a doctor just like my grandfather", Dr. Bonny tells Pride News Magazine. "My grandfather, Dr. Cyrius Bonny, was the Director at Port-au-Prince's General Hospital."

Bonny completed her MD at The University of Haiti, came to Montreal in 1962, where she specialized in pediatrics, and got her residency at The University of Montreal in 1967.

"I like working with children," Bonny, 68, explains during a recent phone interview from her home in Montreal. "For me, they are much easier to work with. When given bad news, adults tend to get depressed. So do children. However, when there is a glimmer of hope, a child grasps that more

openly than adults. It's really inspirational how they handle their illnesses."

As she was preparing to return home in 1967, her parents dissuaded her from this, citing the unstable political climate under then President Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier. Undaunted, Bonny decided to continue her education by specializing in hematology, the study of blood and blood diseases.

This, she studied at L'Hôpital Saint-Anthony, Paris, France (1967-68), and completed it at Maisonneuve-Rosemount Hospital in Montreal in 1970, obtaining her fellowship in hematology and pediatrics.

"I like a challenge," says Bonny, "and hematology represented a challenge for me. In the 1960s, there was not much research going on in hematology." She went on to explain there is still a lot to learn about blood through research and treatment.

Simply put, blood comprises red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets, all produced by bone marrow. When our bone marrow doesn't produce these elements in the right quantities, we could die from such ailments as leukemia, anemia, thalassemia, aphasia and other metabolic disease.

As modern medicine continues to explore more aggressive treatments to eradicate diseases, side effects from said treatments sometimes have negative effects on our bone

marrow production. Her research in the field of hematology and pediatrics has saved many lives. "I performed my first bone marrow transplant in 1980," she says. Bonny has since consulted on other transplants in Canada, and has gone back to Haiti to conduct classes in hematology and pediatrics.

She directed the Bone Marrow Pediatrics Transplantation Unit at Maisonneuve-Rosemount Hospital from 1980-1995, and is a member of the New York Academy of Sciences since 1993. An aggregate professor at The University of Montreal, Faculty of Medicine since 1978, the Dean of the faculty, in 2001, presented her with a declaration naming as his best teacher.

Active within her community, she is a member of AMHE (an association

of Haitian doctors abroad), and Kouzin/Kouzine (an association that voluntarily sponsors young Haitians to Montreal). With the Montreal Association of Black Business & Professionals, she is an honorary health professional mentoring black youth who want to enter into the health industry. She spends time talking with the general public via radio and/or TV appearances about sickle cell and thalassemia, and about empowering and educating women on the particular health issues of their children. Bonny is also involved with the Canadian Sickle Cell Association in Montreal, where she can be found at their various summer camps conducting pediatric and parental informational seminars.

She has received many awards over her stellar career, including, in August 1999, the Chevalier Emerite de L'Ordre Nationale a

Haitian national award. Her most recent award is the Living Legends Award, given to her in 2004 from the International Biographical Centre, Cambridge, England for her outstanding contribution to the fields of pediatrics, hematology and bone marrow transplants.

"Personally, I feel uncomfortable in rich, influential social circles, I much prefer dealing with the general public one-on-one," sand Bonny. Her motto is: to have a dream and be able to communicate it to others. Hence, she quietly goes about nurturing the dreams of her fellow countrymen and women, preferring to work behind the scenes rather than in the glare of celebrity.

"Last year was an 'annus horribilis' for Haiti," laments Bonny. "Two thousand and four was to be a beautiful year for my people ... celebrating our 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence. But it turned out to be a sad year for my people hurricanes, invasions, security and political breakdowns. I would like to go back and help because there is so much work to do to rebuild Haiti. But my schedule does not permit, so I do what I can from here."

"There is an understandable frustration amongst my people. After 200 years, where is the progress? Why isn't there more progress? I don't know if I'll see it in my lifetime, so I do what I can with, and for, the children because they are the future of our country. I feel very privileged to have gotten the opportunity to achieve all that I have; I wish my Haitian people to know that they can do the same thing, too."

# Membership Service Report

## Roast Breadfruit

### Sharing of thoughts from the Membership Committee

Gary Thompson  
Membership Chair

use some more members so feel free to join our committee.

Welcome all to another year of thoughts and actions, hopefully all positive.

At the end of last year we hosted approximately 250 children at our annual Children's Party. The children had a great time and enjoyed receiving their gift from Santa. Mrs. Claus was not able to be with us but Mr. Claus and Mrs. Claus in-training were present. We take this opportunity to thank them and wish Mrs. Claus good health.

This event was only possible due to the dedication and hard work of the Membership Committee. These committed few continue to go beyond the call of duty to organize events and provide fabulous meals for our members. It is a privilege to work with them. We could always

## CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

*Continued*

Kentucky before the U.S. Civil War was educated in Scotland as a mechanical engineer. Elijah McCoy returned to the United States and settled in Detroit, Michigan. He began experimenting with a cup that would regulate the flow of oil onto moving parts of industrial machines.

His first invention was a

lubricator for steam engines. The invention allowed machines to remain in motion to be oiled; his new oiling device revolutionized the industrial machine industry.

Elijah McCoy established his own firm and was responsible for a total of 57 patents. The term "**real McCoy**" refers to the oiling device used for industrial machinery. His contribution to the lubricating device became so popular that people inspecting new equipment would ask if the device contained the *real McCoy*. This

helped popularize the American expression, meaning the *real thing*. His other inventions included an ironing board and lawn sprinkler.

The teaching of Black history should not only encapsulate the great work of our predecessors but should explore the important work that is being done by people who are still amongst us. That being the case, we should have reasons to speak about Black history - not only in February - throughout the year.

# Youth Affairs Committee Report

Submitted by:  
The JCA's Youth Affairs Committee

The JCA Youth Affairs Committee (YAC) kicks off its on-going initiatives for 2005 with its 4th Annual Black History/Career Expo. This year's Expo, entitled: *Empowering Youth to Absolute Achievement*, is scheduled for Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at the JCA from 9-3pm.

This yearly event seeks to expose senior-level high school students to the numerous career options available to them. YAC understands the challenging time many students face as they embark on their final year of high school. The Expo aims to alleviate this transition period by highlighting the innumerable opportunities that exist.

In conjunction with Black History month, the Expo also aspires to showcase representatives of Afro/Caribbean heritage for the students to be inspired by role models in their community. These representatives will reflect various professions and industries and provide sound academic and career advice. The day will also include a series of practical workshops and discussions based on a variety of topics. In these sessions, the students will be informed on issues such as budgeting, study tips and life after high school. A special guest speaker will close the event with a stirring message for the students.

## JCA Black History Month Event

This event is scheduled for  
**Friday, February 25, 2005**  
from 9am to 3pm.

We have invited eleven schools to attend this annual event and so far we have 284 people who have confirmed attendance (including fifteen teachers). The theme of this year's event is "Raising the Standard, Expanding Our Minds: A Celebration of Black Achievement". The day will include speakers, and performances by local artists and students and a Caribbean Lunch will also be provided. We continue to seek sponsors for this event including food, decoration and prizes/giveaways. We are also looking for volunteers for the event

YAC welcomes all interested individuals to join. Stay tuned for an upcoming *Membership Information Session* in March for those interested in joining YAC.

For more information, please contact the Committee at **416-746 5772 ext. 422** or [youthaffairs@jcassoc.org](mailto:youthaffairs@jcassoc.org)

**Volunteers are needed at the**  


**Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA) Centre**

To establish a Scout Movement. The Scout Movement will provide stimulating indoor and outdoor programs for young people from 5-26 years. Scouts Canada and members of the Canadian Armed Forces will provide the necessary training and guidance in operating the group.

For further information, please contact  
The JCA,  
**416-746-5772**



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## **CAN YOU HELP ?**

Spelling Bee of Canada will be hosting a Spelling Bee competition in North York (West) and is inviting you to help us with registration, stage management, office help, and name announcement. We also need you as an official Pronouncer, Judge, Word keeper, Resource person, Arbiter and other duties on the day of the event for the junior age 6-8 years or senior age 9-15 years categories.

The North York West Spelling Bee competition will be held on May 8<sup>th</sup> at the Jamaican Canadian Centre, 995 Arrow Road. **Training will be provided** and light refreshments will be served.

### **Please join your City Spelling Bee Team**

Please indicate on the volunteer profile the function that you can assist in.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at 416 746 5772 or 416-746-0072

**THANKS FOR YOUR BELIEF IN THE YOUNG PEOPLE**

# **QUARTERLY MEETING**

**SUNDAY**

**FEB. 27, 2005**

**2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

Jamaican Canadian Centre  
995 Arrow Road

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JCA's web page/address - Web Site: [www.jcassoc.com](http://www.jcassoc.com) • E-mail: [info@jcassoc.com](mailto:info@jcassoc.com)



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# JCA'S PROGRAMS

## **Settlement Services for New Immigrants**

This program is designed to assist newcomers to Canada, primarily those with residence of three years or less. Clients get information on employment, education, housing, family sponsorship and other services.

## Youth and Family Services

Culturally sensitive counseling is provided to youth and families experiencing conflict inside and outside the home. There are also support groups for adolescent girls and incarcerated youth.

## **Domestic Violence and Incest/Child Sexual Abuse Program**

.Designed to address and eradicate violence on the lives of women and children through culturally-sensitive services, advocacy and public education. Services include individual and group counseling.

## **Leaders-in-Partnership (LIP)**

A 10-12 week social development program for school children age 7-12 years, whose behavioral problems puts them at risk of delinquency. Topics include Anger

Building Self-Esteem, and what happens when a child gets in trouble with the law. Operated in partnership with 31 Division of Toronto Police Services.

## **Parenting Program**

Provides group and individual counseling and information to mothers and children 0-12 years, in the areas of health and nutrition, child discipline, and other issues related to healthy child development and parent-child relationships.

## Opportunity Plus +

A job preparation program for unemployed workers 45 years of age and over. Clients receive quick personal help in preparing resumes and polishing their interview skills, including the use of the Internet, review job postings and participates in scheduled workshops, including individual counseling.

## K-Club(and “Junior K”)

A 10-week transition program offering group support and individual counseling, addressing Anger Management, Conflict Resolution and related issues, age 12-26 years.

## **Caribbean Canadian Seniors**

The Caribbean Canadian Senior's

Club is a separate agency within the Jamaican Canadian Association. The club provides Health and Wellness workshops, encouraging members to live active healthy lifestyles, and to lobby on issues of interest to seniors. Members meet at the JCA Community Centre on Tuesdays and Thursday, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

# Summer Camp

Provides age-specific recreational and educational activities for children age 6-12 years in Arts & Crafts, Trips and much more in a safe environment with qualified camp staff. (A small fee is charged to support this program). All other services are Free of Cost.

Language spoken: English & Twi      The JCA  
is wheel-chair accessible

The JCA appreciates the support of our Funders (Donors & Partners): The United Way of Greater Toronto; Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration; the City of Toronto; Human Resources and Skills Development Canada; and the Ministry of Community, Family and Children's Services; and the Canadian Mental Health.

Please visit our web site or contact our office at 416-746-5772 Monday-Fridays for more information

# UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
<u>Gospel Concert</u>	February 20	5-7 pm	JCA
<u>Annual Black History/Career Expo</u>	February 24	9 am to 3 pm	JCA
<u>Quarterly Meeting</u>	February 27	2pm to 6 pm	JCA
<u>JCA Women's Committee</u>	March 13	2-5 pm	JCA
<u>International Women's Day Celebration</u>			